

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/883,232
Reply to Office Action of April 8, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-45 (Canceled)

Claim 46 (Withdrawn): A process for surface-treating a plurality of works comprising the steps of accommodating the works in a holder, surface treating the works accommodated in the holder while being rotated about an axis of the works, the holder comprising a wire which is coiled at distances in such a manner that it is formed as a spring-like tubular structure having spiral-line faces at opposite ends thereof, so that said works are accommodated in said tubular structure.

Claims 47-51 (Canceled)

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): A work holder for surface treating work comprising a substantially tubular body having an internal diameter of a size configured to hold said work, said body being formed of a continuous coiled wire, ~~said coiled wire~~ having spirally wound turns at opposite ends ~~of said body~~ defining end closure portions to prevent removal of work therefrom, and an intermediate portion extending between said end closure portions, said intermediate portion having turns therein disposed in mutually spaced relation to define spaces for exposing said work held within the work holder to surface treating from outside the work holder ~~suitable for holding said work therein.~~

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): The work holder according to claim 52 wherein said body is generally cylindrical.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented): The work holder according to claim 52 including means for preventing entanglement of the turns with those of another work holder in that said intermediate portion of said body includes a small diameter coiled spring wound around turns of said body.

Claim 55 (Previously Presented): The work holder according to claim 52 including means for preventing entanglement of the turns with those of another work holder in that said intermediate portion of said body, adjacent each opposite end thereof is defined by a plurality of turns of wire having substantially no clearance therebetween.

Claim 56 (Previously Presented): The work holder according to claim 52 wherein said end portion of said body is closed by a spiral winding which includes more closely wound turns in a central region of the end portion.

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): The work holder according to claim 52 wherein said body is formed of stainless steel wire.